MONTEREY NEWS

June 2012
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The Town

by Maggie Leonard

Basketball Court Memorial

After lying dormant since 2009, a proposal for a memorial basketball court is back on the front burner for the Select Board. The project was initially broached in 2009 when friends and fellow basketball players David Quisenberry, Greg Carnese, Randy Gelbard, and Scott Jervas got together to raise money for a new basketball

(*cont. on p. 4*)

Annual Town Meeting

by Maggie Leonard

Monterey voters convened at 9:30 am Saturday, May 5, and sailed through a five-page warrant in just under three hours to decide the direction for the town for the next fiscal year. Just prior to the annual meeting, a brief special town meeting was held at 9:15 to ask voters to transfer $6,500 from Free Cash to Fire Department Expenses to help with expenses related to repairs on Engine #1.

The Budget

Moderator Mark Makuc opened the annual meeting and read the list of line items that are the budget requests from the various town boards and departments. Makuc said that as he read the line items anyone with a question about the request should call out, "Hold." Then after the reading there would be an opportunity to go back and discuss the hold items. Out of the 111 line items only three holds were requested; the first was regarding

(*cont. on p. 2*)

Will Marsh

Consultant Mark Bobrowski explaining the proposed zoning bylaws revisions to the annual town meeting on May 5.

(*Town Meeting, cont. from p. 1*) the Southern Berkshire Regional School District; the second was a $5,000 reduction of Veteran's Benefits; and the third was to amend the budget request for Library Maintenance.

Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) Superintendent Michael Singleton gave a brief presentation on the FY 2012-2013 school budget. Singleton stated that the School Committee requested the school district to present a level-funded budget to avoid the complications and delays of last year, which included difficulties getting the 2011–2012 budget passed and the defeat of the Capital Bond issue. While the Operating and Transportation Budget was up a mere 3.18%, Monterey's Capital Assessment increased 243.41% with the district requesting a $29,669 increase from $12,489 in 2012 to $41,858 for FY 2013. Singleton explained that last year's low Capital assessment of $125,000 would have worked if the Capital Bond issue had passed, but since it was defeated the FY 2013 request of $419,000 is a much more appropriate amount to request for the main campus in Sheffield and the outlying schools in Monterey, New Marlborough, and South Egremont. Singleton said that this year these towns will have to determine how to proceed if they want to maintain what he refers to as the "micro schools."

Michael Storch asked, "If there is no increase in the operating budget then why are we paying $19,000 more?" SBRSD Business Administrator Bruce Turner explained that there is a formula created by the state that is based on many fluctuating variables including the number of students from each town, the property values, and the town's ability to pay, and these variables result in increases or decreases from year to year. Select Board chair Wayne Burkhart thanked the School Committee and the SBRSD Administration for their hard work and diligence in the creation of this year's budget. Burkhart also thanked Monterey's School Committee representative Deborah Mielke for her contribution.

Regarding the question about the reduction in the amount of money for veteran's benefits from $14,000 last year to $5000, Town Accountant Steve Pullen explained that two people who had been receiving veteran's benefits were deceased, which eliminated the expense of benefits they were receiving. The Library Maintenance line item amendment was typographical; one of the Library Trustees amended the FY 2013 budget request to $4,580 instead of the $4,080 listed. All line items passed with little discussion.

Zoning Bylaws Revision

The quick passage of the budget was good, because there was plenty to be discussed about Warrant Article 4, the Planning Board's proposed Zoning Bylaws revisions. A brief history of the Zoning Bylaws revision; at the 2011 annual town meeting Zoning Appeals Board member Bob Lazzarini requested and was approved $11,000 to hire consultant Mark Bobrowksi to reorganize and clarify the Zoning Bylaws and make sure they are in agreement with all state laws. The Planning Board worked with Bobrowski throughout the year on the revisions.

Planning Board chair Maggie Leonard (this reporter) introduced Mark Bobrowski, an expert in land use law and planning and a professor at New England Law in Boston. Bobrowski's experience as a professor was evident in his expertise in guiding voters through the sixty pages of revisions, explaining the changes and comparing the proposals to the existing zoning bylaws. Leonard took the floor again to navigate through ten amendments to the proposed revisions that were created as a result of the public hearing held on April 2. All the amendments were unanimously passed and the Zoning Bylaw revisions as a whole were also unanimously approved. Joe Baker thanked the Planning Board for doing a good job and there was a smattering of applause. The Zoning Bylaws revisions

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must be submitted to the Attorney General for approval, and upon approval will be ready for use.

Fire Department Rescue Vehicle

The next discussion was about the request from the Fire Department for $210,000 for a rescue vehicle. Fire Chief Shawn Tryon explained that the vehicle will be outfitted with oxygen and a defibrillator, along with other medical items and equipment, and will provide a way for emergency workers to stabilize a patient until an ambulance arrives on the scene. Chief Tryon said that in rural towns like Monterey it can easily take as much as twenty to thirty minutes for an ambulance to arrive at certain locations, and that the rescue vehicle provides a way to deal constructively with that time gap and save lives. Karen Shreefter asked if other towns in South County have such vehicles, and Chief Tryon responded in the affirmative. The vehicle purchase was unanimously approved.

Wilson-McLaughlin House

There was discussion about Warrant Article 15, a request for $10,000 from the Friends of the Wilson-McLaughlin House (FWMH) to be used for renovations. Laurie Shaw, a FWMH board member, provided background on the Wilson-McLaughlin House, explaining that in 1996 the town meeting voted to "take on the house." In 2005 the projected costs of improvements rose significantly due to state regulations on paying prevailing wages for each aspect of the renovation project. Shaw said, "This is a facility that can be used by the whole town and we are hoping that the town will provide this financial jump-start to our capital campaign and make Edith's dream a reality." Alan Salamon asked, pointing to a notation on the warrant, "Why does the Finance Committee not support this?" Finance Committee (FC) member Michael Storch replied that he was away during this discussion, but his understanding was that the request came in late to the FC and they would have liked to see more information regarding the proposed use of the funds in particular and more information about the project in general. FC member Dan Moriarty agreed.

Former Town Clerk Barbara Swan quoted from Edith Wilson's will, reminding everyone, "When we as a town agreed to take on the house and property we agreed to, as per Edith's will, 'maintain the structure in good condition.' Our integrity as a town is at stake here." Karen Shreefter was recognized and exclaimed, in support of the request, "This is a no-brainer! We're not talking Lenoxology here" (referring to the controversial publicity campaign in Lenox). Select Board member Scott Jenssen said, "The current Select Board

(*cont. on p. 4*)

Christina Lane

Bill Shein (r), former Monterey resident and now a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives from our newly refashioned First District, explained his positions on various issues to an interested group of Monterey voters in the soon-to-be-reopened Monterey General Store on May 17. Scott Cole (2nd from r), new owner of the store provided a delicious assortment of drinks and finger food.

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(*Town Meeting, cont. from p. 1*)
is 100% on board with this request and with the project as a whole." Ian Jenkins recalled that when Edith died there was a lot of emotion around that event. Jenkins went on to say that he supported voting for the $10,000 request, and he wondered if there could be a limit placed on the duration of the process. Jon Levin asked for clarification: "Is the $10,000 for the capital campaign or for just maintenance?" Shaw replied, "It's for the capital campaign." Sally Pullen pointed out, "If we do not vote to maintain the property we will have to sell it." FC member Dan Moriarty requested to "Call the question," which was approved, and then the article itself was approved by a vast majority of the voters.

Alarm Systems Bylaw

Article 26 was to see if voters would approve an updated an expanded Alarms Systems bylaw (Town Bylaws). Michael Storch asked if when an Alarm Permit was issued the Fire Department could provide documentation that can be sent to an insurance company, either a written receipt or a copy of the permit. Responding to another question, Police Chief Gareth Backhaus noted that the rules for the new Alarms bylaw are not for permit renewals but for new permits. There was a request to amend the bylaw to strike the words "renewal of" (referring to the permits) and add the word "new" to modify "permits." The amendment was approved and the bylaw was unanimously approved.

Citizen Petition

The final discussion was Article 27, a citizen petition that asked voters to approve a resolution to direct the town clerk to ask our senators to lobby the Congress to pass a constitutional amendment to reverse the Supreme Court decision on *Citizen's United v. Federal Election Commission*. Local activist Pat Salomon encouraged voters to accept the measure: "The Supreme Court decision says that corporations have free speech rights, which essentially equates money with free speech. This is about limiting special interests. We can only change this by asking Congress to pass a law and provide a legal basis for the change. Let's join the effort going on across the country. This is Step One." The petition was unanimously approved, and the meeting was adjourned shortly after noon.

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(*The Town, cont. from p. 1*)
court in memory of their friend and fellow basketball player James Bogdanoff, a beloved and longtime Monterey summer resident who passed away in 2008 after a battle with cancer.

In 2009 Quisenberry met with the Select Board to discuss the project and propose a preliminary design. That design was problematic and became more so when the town discovered a property line dispute. When that issue was resolved, it was discovered that the project as designed would require a variance as per advice from the Building Inspector. Plus, then Select Board member Jon Sylbert thought that the proximity of the proposed location to the baseball field was not ideal.

The project has resurfaced with a new design that will not require a variance. The group in support of the memorial has raised funds totaling $13,000 and has placed the money with the Berkshire Taconic Foundation, which takes a yearly fee for holding the money. In order to prevent the funds from being slowly diminished as the process of designing and building the basketball court goes (ever so slowly) forward, the Select Board checked with the town Treasurer and she will set up an account to receive the funds.

The Select Board met with Parks Commission member Josh Allentuck at the end of April to discuss the project. >

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Allentuck said it was the first time the Parks Commission had been approached about the project, whose working name is Jamie's Court, and he graciously agreed to be the town's representative and agent to help file paperwork and move the project along.

The current design proposal has moved the court location so that it is all on town land, thus eliminating the property line dispute. The new court will be separated from parking by a grassy strip and the existing court will be repaved and the existing backboards removed to provide for more parking. The proposed location of the court is near a wetland and there will be a Conservation Commission hearing on the proposal at Town Hall on June 12 at 6 pm.

Monterey School Study Group

At the May 21st Select Board meeting the board met with Mari Enoch, Tika Roland, and Mary Ellen Brown, who have agreed to serve on the Monterey School Study Group. The study group is tasked with investigating the options for maintaining a school presence in Monterey either at the existing schoolhouse or at another location. The group is soliciting additional members; if you are interested please contact the Interdepartmental Secretary, Melissa Noe, at Town Hall for information.

The Select Board outlined some of the issues to be explored by the group, including what would be necessary to repair the existing school building. An extensive catalogue of needed repairs was compiled by the Building Inspector not too long ago and should be helpful. The group is also charged with studying other possible buildings and locations for a school including the Edith Wilson property.

Select Board member Wayne Burkhart said that the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) School Committee suggested closing the small outlying schools in the district to save money, and that SBRSD has excess capacity at the main campus in Sheffield due to declining enrollment. Burkhart described the SBRSD as "facility rich but with decaying infrastructure" and said that there is probably no way taxpayers in other towns will want to pay to keep the micro schools open. Study group member Tika Roland asked, "Are we assuming that if we take on the capital responsibilities the SBRSD will still want to keep the school open?" Burkhart admitted that he was not sure on this point. Newly elected Select Board member Muriel Lazzarini asked the group to explore programs that might attract additional students to a Monterey facility, such as programs for younger children, and encouraged the group to "leave nothing unexplored." Lazzarini also reported that New Marlborough Central School is exploring implementing a pilot program to attract students.

Select Board member Wayne Burkhart stated that the study group needs to provide information "so that the town can decide where Monterey is going with our money, with our taxes, and what we might support as a town. We are now considering a new transfer station for $300,000; is there a place for supporting a school too?"

Mari Enoch, who has been actively working on keeping the Monterey School open, said that since demographic projections show declining enrollment for all of SBRSD the study group should include future or shared uses for any building it proposes. Enoch added that, while some states, such as neighboring Connecticut, are passing laws mandating the consolidation of small school districts, she has also heard of a progressive movement in Maine where they are decentralizing school districts.

Mary Ellen Brown, former Business Administrator for SBRSD, noted that a study done by the state in 2008 recommended that SBRSD merge with nearby Berkshire Hills School District due to projected reduction in student population in both districts. The Select Board appointed David Micklewright and Eric Martin as Monterey's representatives to the ad hoc committee being formed by the SBRSD School Committee to explore the district's options regarding the micro schools in towns of the district. The Southern Berkshire Regional School District is facing budget issues and has excess capacity.

Fire Department Rescue Vehicle

On Monday, May 14, the Select Board held a bid opening for the light duty rescue vehicle for the Fire Department. The only bid received was from KME Kovatch for $186,259 with no exceptions to the bid. KME and the Kovatch organization are

(*cont. on p. 6*)

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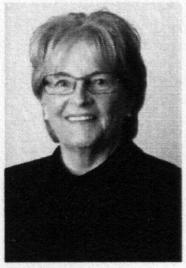
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(*The Town, cont. from p. 5*)
located in Nesquehoning, Pennsylvania, and are global leaders in the supply of customized specialty vehicles for industry, police, and fire and rescue. On the recommendation of the Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief the bid was accepted.

Transfer Station Redesign

Director of Operations Maynard Forbes met with the Select Board on Monday, May 21, to present a preliminary plan for a new transfer station. The plan shows the transfer station located just west of the current location with a new entrance and driveway, and canopies to cover the containers as per EPA mandate. Forbes explained that people will be able to unload their vehicles and throw the trash, including large bulky waste items, down into the containers. Forbes told the board that he will share the plans with Jamie Cahillane the Recycling Service and Waste Reduction Program manager at the Center for Ecological Technology, and with the Master Garbologist, the town's garbage hauler, to solicit input.

Mass Broadband

The Select Board received a letter at the end of April from the Massachusetts Broadband Initiative stating that a contractor would be coming to Town Hall and the fire station to wire the buildings for broadband. No sooner did the board read the letter than the contractor arrived and performed the work. Now Town Hall and the fire station are wired out to the poles, ready and waiting for the fiber optic system to come to downtown Monterey.

Town Audit

On Monday, May 7, the Board met with Town Accountant Steve Pullen to discuss a contract from Melanson Heath & Company, PC, for the town audit. Board members asked if the project should have been put out to bid, and Pullen said that the contract is under $25,000 so it is not technically necessary, and that this company has performed the audit twice before and has agreed to charge the same price. The audits are mandated to be every three years, and the last one was done in 2009.

Police Report

- MVA on Harmon Rd.—speed related.
- Abandoned 911 on Dowd Rd.
- MVA at Main & Corashire Rd.
- Suspicious activity, Art School Rd.
- Suspicious activity, Blue Hill Rd.
- Assisted New Marlborough with building checks from an alarm.
- Complaint about a fire on Art School Rd.; party was ordered to put fire out.
- Building checks on Main Rd. and Mt Hunger.
- Complaint of erratic operation on Bidwell Rd.
- Fire on pole on Tyringham Rd.
- Disabled MV across from Lake Garfield.
- False alarms, Sylvan Rd., Main Rd.
- Assisted Great Barrington PD at Eagleton School.
- Tree across road on Curtis Rd.
- Complaint of a party driving in the wrong lane on Mt Hunger Rd.
- Request received (and approved by Select Board, Police Chief, and Fire Chief) from Berkshire Cycling Classic (bicycle race) to pass through Monterey on May 6.
- Harassment complaint on Pixley Rd.
- Assisted with truck stuck on Lime Rock Lane.
- MVA on Tyringham Rd.
- Bear reported on Main Rd.
- Report of sign down on Main Rd (just west of Eaton Rd).
- Well-being check on Point Rd.
- Bike accident at Main & Tyringham during bike race; ambulance transported one person.
- Rabid raccoon on Buckingham Lane.
- Report of a lost iPhone—please call PD with any information.
- Assisted with a small stove fire at Monterey General Store.

The department received some funding through the emergency preparedness grant to go toward a body heat sensor, which could assist with events during the night. It provides thermal imaging in situations where you can't see.

Wayne Burkhart asked Chief Backhaus to look at the rotting maples on Curtis Rd. and to work with the Director of Operations and the Tree Warden to determine if they are a safety issue.

Highways and Operations

Director of Operations Maynard Forbes reported on recent highways and operations activity through May 7.

- All but two roads in town have been graded; Wallace Hall and Brett were being worked on.
- A culvert on Brett Rd. will be replaced (damage from Hurricane Irene). The only other project left from Hurricane Irene to be fixed is some damage to the dam behind the library.
- Intersections mowed.

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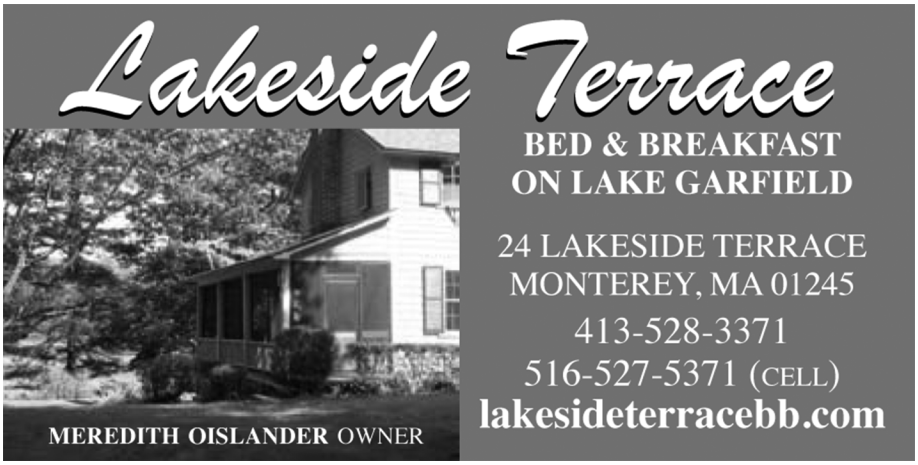

- Work on Beartown Mtn. Rd. will start soon.
- Roads and beaver ponds were checked.
- Ponds on Fairview and Harmon Rds. needed to be cleaned out.
- Area around wooden bridge on Gould Rd. was cleaned.
- Ditches were cleaned on Fairview, New Marlboro, Harmon and Gould Roads.
- Snowplows put away for the summer.
- Kenworth was sandblasted and painted.
- Light bulbs changed at town hall, Assessors desk repaired.

Miscellaneous

Select Board member Muriel Lazzarini asked for an update on the construction of the cell towers that were permitted last year. Interdepartmental Secretary Melissa Noe reported that she spoke with the attorney from AT&T, who informed her that the Main Road tower had been delayed due to some ledge issues and the Chestnut Hill tower is waiting on funding from AT&T; the projected completion date is 2013.

The board received a notification from the Tennesee Gas Pipeline informing the town that they will be selectively applying herbicides along the gas pipeline in the rights of way.

Town Interdepartmental Secretary Melissa Noe is investigating the cost to make the town flag design into 12" x 18" flags for purchase at MontereyFest. ॐ

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Bucket Brigade Welcomes New General Store

As a show of support and to welcome the new General Store, on Saturday, May 12, thirty hearty Montereyans manned buckets and brushes, scrubbing away exterior mold and mildew on the store siding. At a time when we're all busy enough with our own places, it was gratifying to see the turnout.

A New England general store is an endangered species. Monterey is thrilled to have Scott Edward Cole as the store's new proprietor. Scott has spent the last nineteen years as owner of the popular Caffe Pom d'Oro in West Stockbridge. In the restaurant business, nineteen years is like a century.

To show his appreciation to the volunteers, Scott whipped up some pink lemonade and baked a big batch of colossal chocolate chip cookies. You had to see the faces as people nonchalantly bit into a cookie . . . and then froze to capture the moment, to savor the taste—to get lost in the texture, crispy outside, chewy inside. The overwhelming consensus was that the chocolate chip cookies were the best chocolate cookies anyone had ever tasted.

Scott, we're so delighted to have you here in Monterey.

—Hy Rosen

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Eric Martin at June 20th Community Potluck

Many thanks to MaryPaul Yates, who gave an informative Power Point presentation at the May Monterey Community Potluck. She also generously signed and distributed copies of one of her books on fabric design.

The May Potluck was billed as the "last of the season," but many of those present requested continuing into June. This happily coincided with the Monterey Cultural Council's wanting to sponsor a local musician in June. So we are lucky to have Eric Martin as our featured musician. Eric says he will be "playing and singing an assortment of songs he loves, but doesn't get a chance to play very often."

The June Monterey Potluck Dinner will be on Wednesday June 20, at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse. Bring a dish to share with a serving utensil and a place setting and silverware for yourself. All are welcome.

—Barbara Dahlman, Kyle Pierce, &
Monterey Cultural Council

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Community Center News

The town's vote in approval of funds toward our Capital Campaign provides a huge boost in morale and momentum for the committee working on the Community Center, in addition to its effect on our campaign totals. Keep an eye on the red thermometer line at the mouth of the MCC driveway for an indication of how we (you) are doing. Thank you for your support at town meeting. We are putting together fundraising materials to be sent to you by mail, which will be ready quite soon. Any advance contributions (completely tax-deductible of course) should be made payable to FWMH and sent to FWMH, PO Box 302, Monterey, MA 01245. Thanks!

Knox Boxes Required by New Alarm Bylaw

At the May 8th annual town meeting, a revision to the Alarm Bylaw was passed that includes a requirement for buildings with fire alarms to install a Knox Box to allow Fire Department access without breaking in. As soon as this bylaw is approved by the Attorney General's office the town will send to those with an existing alarm the procedure for complying with the bylaw and how to purchase a Knox Box. We will also detail the procedure in a future edition of the *Monterey News*.

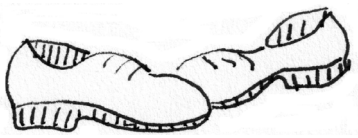
—Monterey Fire Department

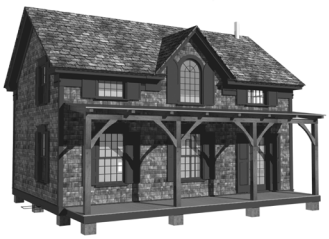
Town Election Results

In a relatively quiet town election with only two contested races 187 voters (26% of 711 registered) turned out on Tuesday, May 8. According to Assistant Town Clerk Linda Thorpe, this turnout was comparable to that of recent town elections, which until this year were held on the same Saturday as the town meeting.

In the only contested races, Wayne Burkhart defeated Kenn Basler to retain his Select Board seat, and Roger Tryon defeated Ian Jenkins for the two-year Planning Board seat.

There were no surprises in the uncontested races, which were all squeaky clean. Robert Lazzarini and Jon Levin were elected to the Zoning Board of Appeals; Donald Hopkins to the Assessors; Stephen Enoch to the Board of Health; Linda Thorpe to the Cemetery Commission; Dan Moriarty to the Finance Committee; Lisa Smyle, Denise Andrus, and Lois Storch to the Library Trustees; Mark Makuc as Moderator; Josh Allentuck, Emily Johnson, and Angelica Collins to the Park Commission; Maggie Leonard and Barry Karson to the Planning Board; Muriel Lazzarini to the vacant Select Board seat; Deborah Mielke as Town Clerk; and Shaylan Burkhart as Tree Warden.





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Dean Amidon and fellow Monterey veterans, Monterey Veterans Memorial Park, Memorial Day 2012. Dean, who has organized the Memorial Day observances and veterans activities for many year, was recognized at this year's observance with well-deserved special citations from the Town of Monterey and the Massachusetts House of Representatives. (Photos by Linda Thorpe)

Reflections on Memorial Day

*The American fabric is stitched with the stories of sons and daughters who gave their lives in service to the country they loved. (*from President Barack Obama's Memorial Day prayer, 5/25/12, Huffington Post)

All except one of my family members who were involved in WW2 are gone. My dad, Uncle John, and Uncle Paul served in various capacities stateside, as did my Aunt Nora. She taught math at Annapolis in the early 1940s while the Academy's usual teaching staff were occupied elsewhere. My Uncle George, who was an X-ray technician on a ship in the Pacific, is the only one of them still alive.

And you know how it is when a family member or other loved one moves on, passes on, leaves the circle of physical presence. There's a hole in the fabric of the family, of the community. And we struggle with the necessary re-orientation, the need for someone to fill, somehow and in a new, unique way, some of the roles that loved one used to play in our lives.

The same is true of our nation as the members of the WW2 generation are moving on. As they give their lives to the passage of time, they also pass us the torch of their commitment to our country, and the gift of their tried-in-the-fires-of-life idealism.

What the president also said of those fallen in battle is true for the WW2 vets who came home to live with us for a longer period of time:

They were ordinary citizens who rolled back the creeping tide of tyranny, who stood post through a long twilight struggle, who saw terror and extremism threaten our world's security and said, "I'll go." And though their stories are unique to the challenges they faced, our fallen service members are forever bound by a legacy of valor older than the Republic itself.

May we choose, each in our own way, to treasure these twin flames. May the valor which sent this generation to war, and some of them back home again, live within us. May we say a collective, and an individual, "yes" to becoming, each in our own time, the great generations that follow them.

—Mary Kate Jordan

Mary Kate delivered these reflections at the Memorial Day observance at Veterans Memorial Park.

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Denise Andrus

Monterey Firemen and Policemen Given EMT Emergency Services Award

On August 17, 2011, Monterey Fire and Monterey Police responded to a "man down" call in the gravel pit behind the Highway Department. Through the efforts of those responding, a life was saved. Timely CPR and the use of a defibrillator brought the person back. On May 18, 2012, eleven members of Monterey's Emergency Services were honored by the Western Mass Emergency Medical Services Awards Committee for saving a human life. Awards were presented to Police Chief Gareth Backhaus, Police Officer Michael Johnson, Assistant Fire Chief Maynard Forbes, Captain Del Martin-EMT, Firefighters Richard Andrus, Chris Tryon, John Makuc, Roy Carwile, Cody Funk, Robert Rodgers, and Julio Rodriquez (not pictured).

Young Artists At Work at Knox Gallery

The Knox Gallery at the Monterey Library is presenting an exhibition to highlight the exceptional creative work being done at our local schools, the Monterey Kindergarten and New Marlborough Central School. The show will run from June 1 to June 28, with a reception on June 1 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. The Knox Gallery is open during library hours.

The Monterey Kindergarten children worked with their teacher, Lynn Webster, their teaching assistant, Karen Blodgett, and in collaboration with Elizabeth Wolf, a local educator, to create the works in this show. The New Marlborough School's art teacher, Donna Drew, teaches art to their kindergarten and first to fourth grade students, and a sampling of that work will be represented in the show. In addition, the Flying Cloud Institute ran an after-school visual arts program at the New Marlborough School this spring with professional artists as teachers from our community: Nicole Campanale and Phil Knoll from Monterey and Jane Burke and Saskia Larraz from New Marlborough. Examples of this artwork will also be on display.

MONTEREY FEST 2012

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18TH

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Monterey Library Notes

Thanks for all your patience as CWMARS switches over to Evergreen, the new software. We know it will take some effort to learn a few new tricks, but in the end the automated library experience should be easier for all of us. We have spoiled many of you who come to the library by looking up your card when you've forgotten it, but Evergreen requires some extra steps to do this—so to make it easier for us and faster for you, please bring your card!

The adult book discussion group will meet at 7:30 pm on Monday, June 25, to discuss *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood* by Janisse Ray. Order this book through CWMARS and join in for a lively discussion!

Starting Saturday, July 7, at 10:30 am we will be having our children's programming again this summer. Check out JeffBoyer.com to see our first performer on July 7. This is a show not to be missed! Every Saturday until August 18 there will be something for the kids, except for the last Saturday in July when we will again have our annual book sale with some activities for the kids all morning long. So mark your calendars! All children are welcome to come in July and August and join the summer reading program—sign up and get rewards for reading for fun!

—Mark Makuc, Library Director

Fireworks in the Planning for MontereyFest 2012

With assistance from Monterey's Parks Department, MontereyFest 2012 is planning to end the day's festivities, on Saturday, August 18, with an exciting fireworks show. It is anticipated that Berkshire Fireworks will, once again, provide a spectacular display of fireworks at Lake Garfield.

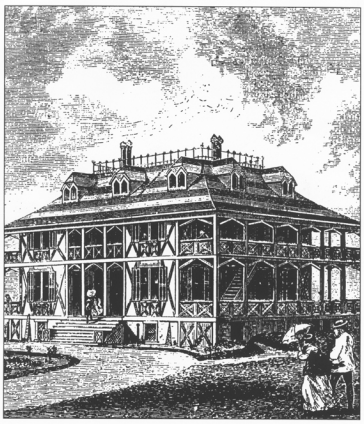
A campaign is currently under way to raise funds for the fireworks display. Volunteers are calling on area businesses and Monterey residents to place ads in the MontereyFest 2012 Program as a way to demonstrate support of our community and the event. The Program will also include information about Monterey's historical sites, currently being compiled by the Monterey Historical Society.

If you'd like to ensure that we have fireworks this year, you have the opportunity to do so! You can place an ad in the Montereyfest 2012 Program or simply make a donation to the cause. Checks can be made out to MontereyFest and mailed to MontereyFest, PO Box 298, Great Barrington, MA 01230.

For further information about placing an ad or making a contribution, please contact Mayra Rodriguez rodriguez.mayra77@yahoo.com or Dorene Beller dorenebeller@yahoo.com

Gabriella Makuc & Friends at Berkshire Music School

Gabriella Makuc, Sophia Cohen, Hannah Lynn Cohen, and YeeJin Yuk will perform "A World of Music," a celebration of solo and chamber music, featuring works of Bach, Beethoven, Bartók, Brahms, Bizet, and Rachmaninoff, at 2:30 pm on Saturday, June 16, at Berkshire Music School, 30 Wendell Avenue, Pittsfield. The performance is free and will be followed by refreshments.



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Whole Child Education Comes to New Marlborough Central

Southern Berkshire Regional School District Superintendent Michael Singleton has announced that an application for the New Marlborough Central School in Mill River to become an Innovation School has received the first level of approval.

In early 2010 Governor Patrick signed education reform legislation that included the opportunity for educators, parents, and other stakeholders to establish new schools, or convert existing ones, to a new designation. These Innovation Schools are charter-like in that they operate with greater autonomy and flexibility in curriculum, staffing, budget, schedule/calendar, professional development, and policies. However, they avoid the disadvantage of charter schools in that they operate and are funded within school districts.

Teachers at the small school in Mill River, working with the Whole Child Initiative in Great Barrington, have proposed a model for the school that engages children at several levels in order to have a more complete learning experience. The approach, explained at the website www.educatethewholechild.org, relies heavily on use of projects to teach material. It also includes field experiences and creative work to connect classroom and community and build a love of learning intended to last a lifetime.

Linda Thorpe

Children from Monterey School marched in Memorial Day Parade with their teacher, Lynn Webster.

The first phase of approval involves submitting a Prospectus, which outlines changes involved in the school's conversion. This has now been approved by a committee consisting of the SBRSD School Committee Chairman, Superintendent, and union representative. The next step is drawing up a more detailed "Innovation Plan" that can be considered by the full School Committee and also in a public hearing yet to be scheduled.

Dr. Singleton commented that he looks forward to the innovations that can come into the district from this initiative. And Christopher Nye of the Whole Child Initiative and Myrin Institute said, "I hope the Whole Child Innovation School in Mill River can be a model that encourages others to change the paradigm. We need to be thinking less about accountability and more about how to nurture children who will be creative, contributing citizens with a love of learning that lasts a lifetime."

Hear Ye, Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

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Bidwell House June Events

Forest Management and Health

On Saturday, June 16, at 10 am the Bidwell House Museum invites all interested community members to a talk and walk with Tom Ryan, Southern Berkshire Service Forester of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. Tom will talk about strategies of forest management and preservation and answer questions from the community. This event is of particular interest to anyone who is considering forest management plans or would like to find out about current approaches to forestry. Attendees can tour forest lots on the Bidwell House property in various stages of regrowth as well as a recently harvested section. Please come dressed for the weather.

History Talk by Prof. John Demos

On Saturday, June 30, at 10 am, the Bidwell House Museum invites all to the first event of the 2012 Bidwell House Museum Colonial History Talk Series. In *The Unredeemed Captive: Her Journey and My Own,* John Demos, Samuel Knight Professor of American History Emeritus at Yale University, will take a look back at his prize-winning 1994 book *The Unredeemed Captive*, which tells the story of the aftermath of the 1704 French and Indian raid on the Puritan settlement in Deerfield, Massachusetts. Reverend John Williams, his wife, and five children were captured during this raid and brought to Canada. Although Williams and four of his children were later released, his wife died on the march. His fifth child, Eunice, age seven at the time of capture, converted to Catholicism and married a Native American in Quebec. Despite the ongoing attempts of Eunice's family to persuade her to return to Massachusetts, she chose her new life, and her new family, thus remaining "unredeemed."

In his lecture, Prof. Demos will reflect on the book's career, as well as its impact on his own career as a scholar and teacher of generations of historians.

Future talks will feature Shaker historian Steven Paterwic telling the story of the Tyringham Shakers on Saturday, July 21, Prof. Carey McIntosh exploring the language of the early settlers on July 28, and on August 18 Prof. Allegra di Bonaventura sharing her research into the working lives in the eighteenth century, based on diaries, letters, and court records.

The Colonial History Talks are held at Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham at 10 am; $15 per person, $10 for members of the museum.

Township No. 1 Day

Township No. 1 Day, the free community celebration of Tyringham and Monterey history, is coming back, this year on Saturday, July 7, from 1 to 4:30 pm. Everyone is invited. Fun events are planned for the whole afternoon:

- Live music by local musicians
- A talk by Historian Bernie Drews on his most recent book, *Henry Knox and the Revolutionary War Trail in Western Massachusetts*
- Redware Pottery Demonstration by Rick Hamelin
- Antiques appraisals by Charlie Flint of Charles Flint Antiques, Lenox
- Exhibits by the Monterey Historical Society and the Tyringham Historical Commission
- Crafts, games, face-painting for kids
- A baking contest, this year competing for best cookies, cakes, or pies
- And much more!

Bring your friends to spend a fun Saturday afternoon at the Bidwell House Museum on Art School Road. Enter a pie, cookies, or cake in the contest! All events are free, thanks to the support of grants from the Tyringham Cultural Council and the Monterey Cultural Council and a fantastic group of volunteers. For more information, please call 528-6888.

Please note: the museum is closed for tours this day.

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SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 2012 6:00PM
ARTISTS' RECEPTION - Gallery Show #1 - THE GROUP OF FOUR
(On Display May 18th – June 11th)

SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 2012 8:00PM $20
TRIPLE PLAY - Bill Crofut Arts Fund Benefit Concert

SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 2012 10:30AM $5
THE ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE with Betsy Polatin

SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 2012 4PM $20
GALA SECOND ANNUAL CONCERT to benefit the Ferris Burtis Music Foundation

SATURDAY, JUNE 16TH FROM 3-5PM
ARTISTS' RECEPTION - Gallery Show #2 - Shadows and Light
SANDY PARISKY & FLORA PARISKY *(On Display June 15 - July 16)*

SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 2012 8:00PM $15
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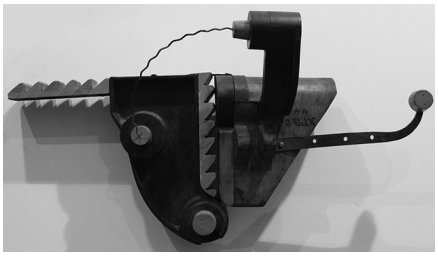

This sculpture by Toby Frank (wood and Metal) will be among those on exhibit at New Marlborough Meeting House.

"Sculpture On the Green" at New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery

The Meeting House Gallery presents "Sculpture on the Green," a presentation of the unique works of area sculptors, with a free opening reception Friday, June 22, from 5–7 pm at the Meeting House Gallery on Route 57 on the Village Green. The show runs through July 8.

The invitational show features the work of Peter Barrett, Ann Jon, Toby Frank, Joe Wheaton, Meryl Joseph, Robin Tost, Eric Callahan, Ellen Murtaugh, and River Kelly. Gallery days are Fridays-Sundays, 11 am– 4 pm.

Emerging Artists Opportunity

Emerging artists ages 5–15 will be encouraged to illustrate and/or write what they love most about Monterey (suggestions may be as a place to live, visit, or vacation). The work will be ready to be judged prior to MontereyFest, and all participants will receive awards and certificates for their submissions. Watch the July *Monterey News* or look on the Monterey Cultural Council's website, www.MontereyMaCC.org, for information about the applications for the MontereyFest Children's Art/Writing contest.

Kids Sun Painting Workshop

For children ages five to fifteen, the Cultural Council will bring in Peggy Reeves to lead a Sun Painting Workshop on Saturday, June 23, from 10 am to noon. Peggy has done this type of event before, and from reports the children have a blast along with the learning process. Pre-registration for the Sun Painting Workshop should be done with Peggy, 413-528-2446, or by email: PEARL465@gmail.com.

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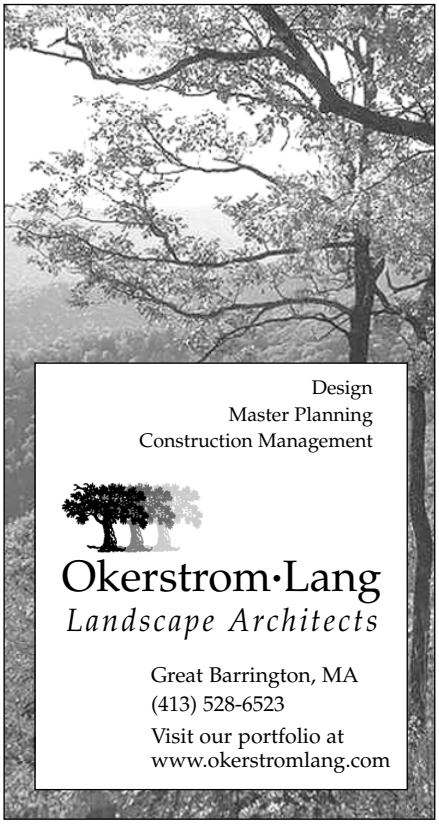
Reserve Space at Otis Crafts Fair

The Annual Otis Craft & Country Fair, to be held Saturday, July 14, 2012, on the Church Green in Otis center, seeks artists and craftsmen to display and sell their creations. The booth space is 10' x 10' and the cost is $35. The annual fair, which benefits the Otis Library and Museum, has attracted thousands of residents, tourists, and guests over the many years it has been held. To reserve space, send payment and a description of your offerings to Kathy Bort, Otis Library, 48 North Main Street, Otis, MA 01253 or call Anita Weinstein at 413-269-4984.

Call for Artists!

The Otis Cultural Council invites artists and craftspeople for the Fifth Annual Otis Arts Festival, Saturday, July 28, 9am–3pm, at Farmington River Elementary School, Route 23, Otis. Entry fee is $20 (Otis residents), $25 (non-Otis residents). Applications available online at www.townofotisma.com/culturalcouncil, or at the Otis Town Hall. For info, email otis-cc@hotmail.com.



Graduation 2012

Dedicated to J.C. & G.M.

"Listen to the silence inside, listen in that place where our listening takes us beyond what we think we know." ——Adyashanti

Graduating with a compass pointing West —

Monterey will grow smaller,
as it happens from a plane and
when we leave and
when we grow.

Carry the belief in yourself
that rises on this day

watch for that zipper of sunlight
across your dorm room floor
and the space hovering
between words on a page —

stay mesmerized
by the unknown.

College will hand you facts, like
glittering beads to a crow

question them until
they become your own,
comfortable as cotton socks
in an early morning chill.

Be ready to toss them
when threadbare
from your own travel
and experience.

Let your mind hold opposites
with equal weight,
and laugh
when your pen explodes.

There are days when it might be necessary
to stop on a dime
turn back or inch forward,
even abandon
your direction
for a louder cause.

Carry the belief in yourself,
that rises on this day

for when you return again —

Monterey will look smaller,
and love will feel stronger
as it happens
when we leave, and
when we grow.

—M. Hamilton

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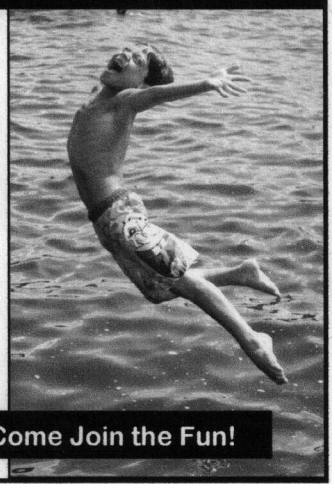

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prose
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everything else

Ages 5-15

Entry forms at www.MontereyMaCC.org

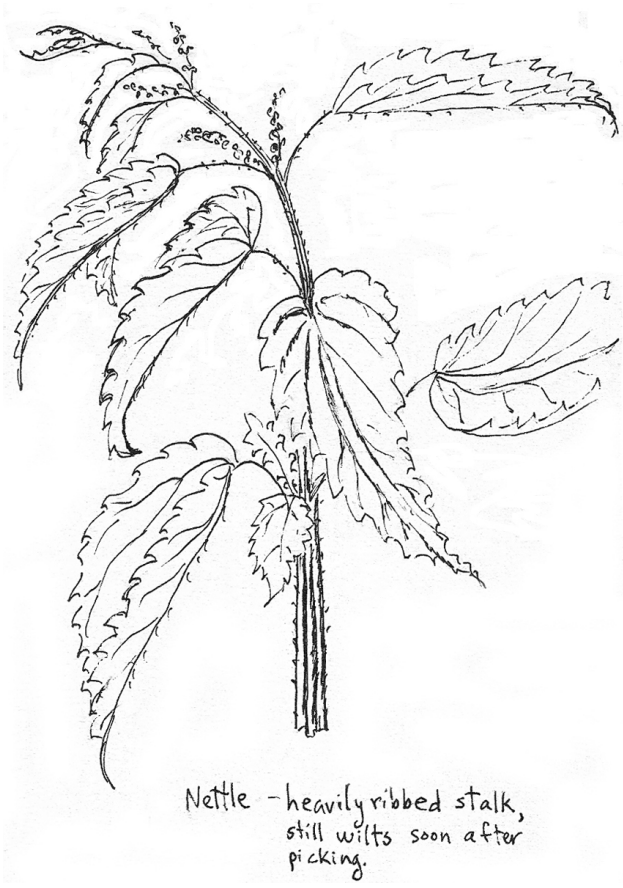
Monterey Cultural Council

Homemade on the Southwest Chief

Solo travel by public transportation can be plenty sociable. I met Michael and Keith in the Amtrak snack car west of Chicago and watched as Keith pulled out one shining thing after another for making coffee. The snack car has electric outlets and Keith plugged in. You CAN buy a cup of coffee on the train, but this guy had brought all his own fixings.

I know about this. Though I had no coffee machines I sure had a lot of homegrown on that trip last month and suffered some degree of smugness as a result. In my campsites I boiled dried vegetables from the home garden: corn, beans, and squash. In the Amtrak snack car I mentioned these things casually, if not modestly, as Keith handed me a cup of his incredible coffee. Michael accepted a cup, too, though he said he didn't usually drink coffee. After he'd had two sips it was clear he was not habituated. He was off and running at the mouth about his own make-it-myself passions: food, shelter, clothing. This guy had been to excellent Wilderness Survival workshops and was now Mr. Sustainable. He was young, he could do anything.

We spoke of plants, of foraging. I bragged about our Monterey nettles and how we hang the tall stalks up to dry the leaves. How the cats would haul them down and eat the dried leaves themselves and then how we figured out all sorts of things to do with the handsome, long, green, squared-off stalks. One year I cut them into eight-inch pieces and lined them up side by side to make trivets. With a teeny drill bit I put holes an inch or so in from each end and ran a skinny wire through.



Michael says nothing, but smiles and reaches into his daypack. He pulls something out and opens his hand: a jumble of green string, kind of fiber-ish.

"Is that nettle fibers? Did you make that??"

He admitted he had, and said this piece of "cordage" was ten feet long and destined to become a bowstring. He explained he had made a bow, of Osage orange wood. Osage orange I know from my college days in Ohio. It has big fruits right out of sci-fi and amazing long thorns all over the place. In SW Ohio farmers planted Osage orange bushes or trees along the edges of pastures and hayfields: living fence for livestock, keeps them in or out.

"We used to make bowstrings of regular old string," I offered, "and we wrapped the middle inch or so with extra, to protect the place where we nocked the arrow."

"I'm going to use sinew."

"Where will you get THAT?"

"Oh, my mother raises Icelandic sheep."

We sipped our coffee. I picked up his string, full of admiration. Nettle fibers are strong and famous. They can be used to make cloth, paper, and rope. I knew all this from book-learning, but here was the youngster who had done it. Michael read my mind and said, "Want to try?"

The next thing we knew, he was unraveling the last foot or so of his bowstring. The strong green fibers were separated now, not so long, maybe about six to eight inches. He took up a bundle and bent them

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at the middle, pinched with the left thumb and forefinger. With the right hand he twisted the top bit, then pulled it down in front and held it in place with the pinching left hand. Then he twisted the new top bit, and pulled it down. He handed it to me and I started in.

"You're good at this!" said my gifted young teacher. "You must make a lot of things with your hands." I glowed. My twining grew, from left to right.

"I want to try," said Keith the coffee man. He, too, got encouragement and praises from our cordage guru, Michael of the sheep-raising mother. We twined, we talked. Michael moved to pen and paper and drew pictures of how to make fire drills using our twine, how to build a shelter of poles and grasses, how to skin a mink. He had a mink hide in his little pack, found along a roadside, waiting for tanning. Talk of tanning, of using the brains.

In Albuquerque we parted ways, but not before sharing a meal over my camp stove out behind the train station. The Amtrak Southwest Chief has a layover of nearly an hour there, and Keith had a big glass bowl of chicken vindaloo he'd made at home, back in Wisconsin. He'd been keeping it in a cooler on the train all those miles, getting more ice from the snack car attendant, who also gave him cups of boiling hot water for his coffee making. Keith knew I had a little backpacker's stove and let it drop that he'd rather have hot curry than cold. So we set it all up, with my one small cook pot, two spoons and a fork, a metal cup, one cloth napkin. We ate together, marveling that we'd met, and that food could be so good. Then three train buddies said good-bye.

—Bonner J. McAllester

Steve Graves

The thrill of the grass! Youth baseball in Greene Park in the spring . . .

Youth Baseball in Monterey

May 5 was an amazing Saturday in Monterey with hundreds of people celebrating a doubleheader at Greene Park.

Hank Wingate prepared the infield field and helped with the foul lines at 9 am. The outfield had been beautifully mowed the day before. The Otis Hardware store donated the lime for the foul lines (which they have for every game for years) and everything was picture perfect.

The first game was the Blasters against Lenox. Ben pitched two great innings with stellar control, followed by Nicky, and Roman. The Blaster pitching was excellent, and after six innings the score was 9–9 so we played an extra inning. Lenox got five runs in the seventh and the Blasters got three, for a final score of 14–12. It was exciting and high quality baseball.

After the cookout, the Crushers played the other Lenox team. Jordan, Roman, and Nicky pitched with precision, and after five innings, it was 4–4. Nicky shut Lenox down in the top of the sixth. In the bottom of the sixth, Dylan Edelman led off with a smash to right center for a single. After another hit, Roman teed off for the walk-off double with Dylan scoring the winning run. Wooooooow.

And in the words of Karen and Richard Carpenter, "We've Only Just Begun."

—Steve Graves

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Our Town

Thornton Wilder first published his play *Our Town* in 1938 to portray small-town values of everyday life and explore the connection between the commonplace and the cosmic dimensions of human experience. The first act is a single day in Grover's Corners, New Hampshire. The curtain comes up with the sun rising, just as it must have in Monterey over Chestnut Hill to look down on the headwaters of Lake Garfield. George Keyes, Bonner McAllester's great uncle would be getting ready to milk the cows in the barn near where she now has a subsistence farm, but then her father her father, David, was also getting ready to graduate from Harvard.

Where George Keyes looked down across Lake Garfield, the cosmic dimension that defined the seasons had already separated the winter and summer residents. Along one shoreline were the Bans on Indian Cave Road and on another the Somers at Rock Ridge. Up on Elephant Rock Road were summer cottages of Wings, Adams, and Whitestones, and Kip's grandparents in her place on Blueberry Hill. Friends of Dr. Taggart had founded the Lake Garfield Golf Club further on along the banks of the Konkapot toward town, but Fire Chief Wallace Tryon was it's only member!

That was about to change just as in the second act of *Our Town*, entitled "Love and Marriage." There were dances at the clubhouse as well as the Grange, and World War II would alter the go-with-the-flow direction of many lives. As the River of Time flowed past the ball field, post office, teahouse, country store, and gas station, people mingled with each other. At the library, Newman Abercrombie held court from 1924 to 1978. After graduating from Williams College, he retreated from a difficult background to live with his sister and her storekeeper husband, Julius Minor. Here he found himself and the town.

He greeted people, including Edith Wilson, Shel Fenn, and Judy and Arnie Hayes and formed a relationship they described as the glue that held the town together. At the church, W. Raymond Ward was interim minister from 1942 to 1946 while helping to manage Gould Farm and driving a school bus to make ends meet. He was full-time minister from 1948 to 1956 and, with Mary, raised a family in the same house where their daughter Sally now lives, near the firehouse—which has a new chief by the traditional name of Tryon.

Walter Parks at the post office became a Norman Rockwell profile of Americana, as well Town Clerks Barbara Swan and Linda Thorpe, diplomats of good will. After a lot of water under the bridge on Main Street, the entire Town came together in 1997 to celebrate the Sesquicentennial. The Coffee Club met every morning in the General Store, where both Henry Wolfer and Dick Tryon continued to welcome anyone from all walks of life with engaging conversation.

Monterey, a local History, was also published, written by its own citizens with Peter Murkett as editor. It is available at the library along with works of Thornton Wilder. The last act of *Our Town* is reminiscent of the cemetery at the edge of town. In Monterey, when the sun sets in the west over Corashire, in our minds are both past actors and present ones still on stage, for us to applaud the roles they played, long after the footlights dim and the curtain comes down.

—George B. Emmons

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May Wildlife Sightings

We heard from the Lake Buel folks about birds of all sizes, from hummingbirds to ospreys and a loon. Sue Protheroe reported the ospreys back the first week in May, also three spotted sandpipers, yellow warblers, sapsuckers, orioles, the hummingbird, and the loon. Carol Ingher has seen hummingbirds in the same part of town in mid-May, at her kitchen window, and George Emmons reports that bald eagles have been spotted repeatedly from the bridge down there in Hartsville and may be nesting in the area.

Kit Patten on Fairview Road was watching two orioles early in the month, hopping around his apple tree, which was in bloom. The birds were dipping into the blossoms, probably for nectar. He also reports a scarlet tanager from about that same time.

In the smaller mammals department we have Jan Emmons telling of the return of the black squirrels to her part of Main Road, and Joe Baker seeing a mink near Gould Farm, carrying a rabbit. This was near the end of May.

Right at the end of April, Anita Willoughby called about two moose in her yard by Royal Pond. This is just over the Otis line, on Route 23. She says one was full grown, the other smaller. About this same time I saw mid-sized moose tracks in a driveway off the east end of Hupi Road, which is not far from that Royal Pond sighting.

Maggie Leonard

This month's bear reports come from Maggie Leonard (see photo) and Ed Salsitz on Beartown Mountain Road, and from the Makuc family on Main Road a bit east of the town center. Ed Salsitz saw his bear the last week in May, crossing the road near Brett Road. He hurried home to tell about it, and then he and Alli looked out and saw the same bear walking across their lawn. They got a couple of good pictures. Ed says seeing the bear was "kind of fun, in a way, but they're also frightening." This puts it very well.

At the Makuc house, the bear arrived May 28 at the front door at 5:45 am. Alerted by his daughters, Mark went to take a look. At this, the bear left and went around the house. Talking to me on the phone, Mary Makuc laughingly said the bear must have been frightened. "A lot of people are afraid of Mark," she says, but we know she can't be serious.

Ed Salsitz says the Indonesian word for bear is *beruang*.

Thanks for all your wild news. Call or write me with your sightings.

—Bonner McAllester
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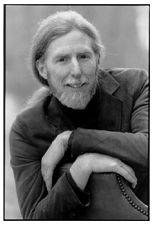

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Hume New England Christian Camps in Monterey Offering Community Dinner June 6

We want to have you over for dinner! Come join us on Wednesday, June 6, at 6:00 pm for a complimentary dinner and to learn more about "Why Hume New England Christian Camps?" For more than sixty-five years, Hume Ministries of Hume, California, has partnered with churches and families around the globe to provide unique and powerful summer camp experiences that transform lives with the Gospel.

We are humbled and honored to introduce Hume New England Christian Camps as one of our five arms of ministry. Hume Ministries encompasses Hume Lake Christian Camps, Hume New England Christian Camps, Joshua Wildness Institute, Pointman Leadership Institute, and Hume International.

Hume Lake Christian Camps (the flagship camp) is located in Hume, California, near Sequoia National Park and Kings Canyon and has approximately 115 full-time staff year round and hires another 300 students for the summer months. This nondenominational Christian camp

Hume New England staff members with some of the Firefighers for Christ volunteers who traveled from California to assist in getting camp ready for the summer season.

experience at both locations will forever change your view of summer camp.

The campus of Hume New England Christian Camps in Monterey creates a memorable and life-changing experience for kids of all ages, focusing on evangelism and discipleship. Hume New England's expansive acreage and facilities provide dynamic and powerful opportunities for Christian growth and fellowship in a setting rich with potential for outdoor enjoyment, challenge, recreation, and relaxation. This year, thanks to generous donations, all youth campers may take advantage of a 50% scholarship off camp tuition at the Hume New England location. The 50% scholarship price of $198 for a week of summer camp includes all meals, lodging, programs, camp T-shirt, and free time activities! Six weeks of summer camp will run from July 1, 2012, through August 11, 2012. You may sign up by contacting our registration office at 1-800-965-HUME. Learn more at www.humenewengland.org.

Recently Hume New England Christian Camps was on the receiving end of modern-day heroes lending a helping hand with a myriad of projects as many volunteers such as a youth group from Korea; Bill and Mary Jane from Camper on Mission; multiple area churches; and

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Firefighters for Christ from both California and New York City were on the scene. Quoting one volunteer, "It is an honor to be a small part of what the Lord is doing through Hume New England. The highlight was the work accomplished, the oneness of the team and the fellowship in Jesus."

Another arm of ministry is the Joshua Wilderness Institute where the motto is "Transforming the Life Effectiveness of God's People." Each year 56 students are accepted for enrollment into the Joshua program. Joshua students are ready to do whatever it takes to serve the Lord with their whole life. They are willing to look at any area of their life that isn't meeting that standard, and bring it in line with spiritual and personal discipline. We guide them through this process with biblical classroom curriculum, local and international missions, and day-to-day life in the community. The motivation for attendance should be life effectiveness, through an increase in wisdom. When students come with that goal in mind, God uses the community to shape and develop the individual. Each one takes home a measure of transformation proportional to his or her individual drive and desire to be more like Christ. For more information about the Joshua program visit www.joshuawilderness.org.

Pointman Leadership Institute is another area of ministry, where the motto is "Ethics Training That Works." Real leadership is about character. PLI's vision is to transform cultures by creating and supporting inspirational, trustworthy leaders. Its mission is to provide ethics training worldwide in character-based, principled leadership. Since Pointman Leadership was founded in 1994, Pointman has taught nearly 800 seminars in more than 55 countries to more than 60,000 military, government, police, and business leaders.

Hume International, yet another facet of Hume Ministries, is sometimes phrased as "Hume in a Can," as staff travels to various parts of the world bringing "Hume to them" for military families and missionary families that may be in remote areas and not have access to an organized camp program. Hume Ministries is very global. These are exciting times. After more than a decade of prayer regarding Hume Ministries expanding from the West Coast to the East Coast, Monterey is now home to Hume New England Christian Camps . . . To God Be the Glory! We welcome the opportunity to serve you in Christian Camping Ministry. We look forward to meeting our community, Wednesday, June 6, at 6:00 pm as we host a complimentary dinner in the main dining hall at 73 Chestnut Hill Road (RSVP's are encouraged, but not necessary: 413-528-3604). See you soon . . .

Third Annual Otis Celebration Day June 16

The Otis Celebration Day Committee announces the Third Annual Otis Celebration Day to be held on Saturday, June 16, 2012, from 8 am to 10 pm at the Otis Town Hall, to celebrate the tradition of the diverse and peaceful community.

Activities include a pancake breakfast; all-day entertainment and games for children of all ages, including Petting Zoo and Inflatable Park; Dog Show; Third Annual Talent Show; Boy Scout Burger & Hot Dog Sale; Zumbathon; square dancing with caller extraordinaire Cliff Brodeur and the Housatonic Philharmonic; Taste of Otis and Beer Garden; shakin' samba with Berkshire Bateria; country and western swing with Dooley Austin Band; Pajama Party with movie Wall-E and Babysitting (for children 3 to 11 years old).

From near and far, join in the fun! All are welcome!

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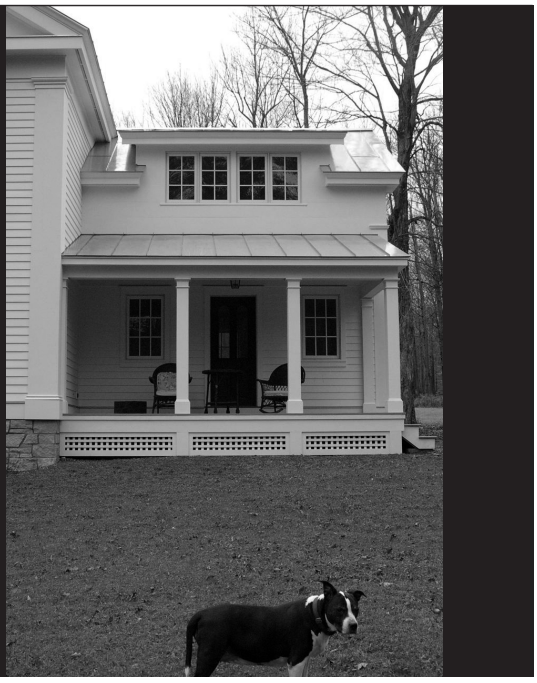

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"Garden Gustation"

Rhubarb, Corn, and Cake

Well, it's not exactly the time of year to be discussing corn, but wait . . . we have a fair bit of dried grain corn remaining from last year, and I'm always looking for new and delicious recipes to use it up. Also, the rhubarb is looking absolutely grand at this time of year, except for the barely noticed underlying leaves, where I discovered that the slugs were helping themselves. No time like the present to make good use of it before they do! So I recently came across a recipe using both: rhubarb and cornmeal.

Maybe if I discuss the grain corn now, there might be time for other gardeners to put their own in this year; it's delicious. We've been growing one variety of corn for drying and grinding into cornmeal for the last four years, Blue Hopi. It is a sturdy and tall corn variety that yields large ears full of dark blue to black kernels. Make sure to plant them a distance (in both time and location) from your sweet corn or there could be hanky-panky in the garden. We leave the ears on the stalks until very late in the season, when we pick them and bring them inside to dry further.

The corn needs to dry a fair bit before any grinding can be done, and the easiest and safest way (if you have any lovely little rodents at your place) is to hang the ears. I learned a nifty little trick from Bonner McAllester to assist in this task. Directly after picking I pull back the husks into two sections but don't remove them from the end of the cob. I tie the husks from one ear to the husks from the next ear and continue in this way to make a chain of corn ears. I then hang these up inside wherever there is space. I have hand-wrought wooden timber frame pegs extruding in my studio so they become the perfect hangers. In addition to the interior decorating in the fall, the corn will sit here to dry. I will leave the corn chains here at least until Christmas. At that point, Stephen and I will have a "date" to sit on the couch and remove the kernels from the cobs. It's a fun job with a good pair of grippy gloves. The kernels dropping into the bowl feel like real wealth.

I have a mill attachment for my KitchenAid mixer that let's me grind small batches of cornmeal that I keep in the refrigerator or the freezer. The Blue Hopi corn makes a bluish cornmeal that always adds an interesting color to whatever it's baked into, but the smell and taste is so fresh and corny. We especially love cornbread and Indian pudding, but blueberry cornmeal pancakes are a favorite as well. Now we can add the Rhubarb Cinnamon Cornmeal Cake to our list of recipes.

This recipe comes through Alana Chernilla, a local author, selectwoman, farmer, mother, and cook. Her new book is called *The Homemade Pantry: 101 Foods You Can Stop Buying and Start Making*. A woman after my own heart! Her website is www.eatingfromthegroundup.com.

Rhubarb Cinnamon Polenta (Cornmeal) Cake

Underlined ingredients are ours or local

I tried this on a group of friends recently and really loved the sandy texture the cornmeal gave to the cake. Don't leave out the rhubarb sauce!

For the filling:

1 pound rhubarb
¼ cup sugar
4 T water

For the Crust:

¾ cups coarse cornmeal/polenta
1½ cups plus 1 T flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. cinnamon
½ cup sugar
grated zest of a small orange
10 T cold butter, cut into 1" pieces
1 large egg
2–4 T High Lawn Farm milk
1 T demerara sugar (or granulated)

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Put a baking sheet in the oven (you want to get it hot, you'll use it later in the recipe). Grease an 8" springform cake pan, then line the bottom with parchment.
2. Cut the rhubarb into 1–2" pieces. Put them into a baking dish, scatter them with the sugar and water, and bake for about 30 minutes, or until soft (or, I

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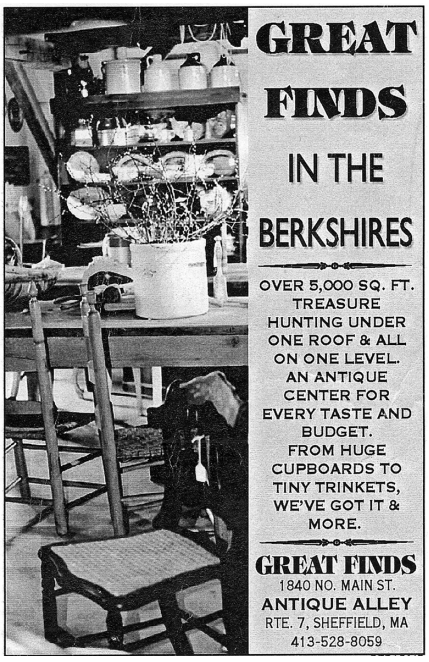
cooked the rhubarb in a pot on the stove with the water and sugar). Drain the fruit in a colander and reserve all the cooking liquid to serve with the cake later.

3. Meanwhile, put the cornmeal, flour, baking powder, cinnamon, and sugar into the bowl of a food processor and give it a quick pulse to mix. Add the orange zest and butter and pulse again several more times until the mixture is uniform and the butter is the size of small peas. Beat the egg with 2 T of milk and add that mixture to the batter while pulsing again, stopping as soon as you have a soft, sticky batter. Add a bit more milk if it's not sticky.
4. Press about two-thirds of the batter into the cake pan with a wooden spoon or your fingers, taking care not to have any holes. Cover with the drained rhubarb then put lumps of the remaining batter over the rhubarb, leaving holes for the fruit to poke through. Scatter the demerara sugar over top. Place on the hot baking sheet in the oven (the springform may leak) and bake for 45–55 minutes, or until golden.
5. Allow to cool for at least 20 minutes before removing from the pan. Serve with the cooking liquid drizzled over top, with something creamy on the side (crème fraiche, ice cream, homemade yogurt).

—Wendy G. Jensen
wendygj@gmail.com



From the Meetinghouse . . .

As you may already know, our town's called Monterey due to an impulse in a previous century to commemorate a battle in Monterrey, Mexico. That decision trumped the only other choice on the table at the time, which would have our mail delivered to Greenwoods, Massachusetts, 01245. Perhaps that sounded like a very ordinary name in the face of the drama of battle, even one far removed from New England. But June is the time when Greenwoods feels like our most authentic name.

The leaf canopy is fully developed. Stands of jack-in-the-pulpit and other wild perennials thrive in the woods, in ditches, on roadsides. The animal life's renewed, too. Birds offer symphonies every morning. Toads, peepers, and owls provide the night music to which fireflies dance. The five "Stevens Lake Goslings" stay near their parents, but not so closely as they did just a few weeks ago. Still, the drake seems particularly proud of his defensive success whenever I turn up my home driveway instead of continuing down the road to where he stands hissing, flapping his wings.

Some of us may call this abundance the work of the Green Man, as ancient Britons used to say when new vegetation flourished in the woods and on the dales each year. For others of us, this is one of the miraculous gifts of the Lord. Still others of us refer to this same flowering as a simple serendipity of geography, axis-tilt, and distance from the sun. I wonder: even though we don't all call the source of this life by the same name, what if now is a good time to honor life with gratitude? What if we make that a priority?

Will any of us take up the challenge? Will any of us celebrate life with gratitude as June begins, even if the people around us aren't doing it our way? And will we then continue to celebrate, even in the midst of our most ordinary days? It's a great time of year to give it a try. After all, as Oscar Hammerstein's chorus sang in the musical *Carousel*, "June is bustin' out all over!"

—Mary Kate Jordan

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Flying Cloud Institute Offers Summer Youth Program

Flying Cloud Institute is offering the SMArt! Summer Program of integrated science and visual and performing arts opportunities for children ages five through fourteen at its 200-acre farmstead from June 25 through July 27. Children participate in morning workshops in a variety of disciplines and explore and expand their ideas in afternoon collaborative "big" projects.

In keeping with their dedication to introducing children to professionals in the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and the arts, this summer SMArt! program participants will collaborate with Douglas Trumbull Studios to create a virtual reality film using state of the art green screen technology. Participants will write, compose, choreograph and perform a Rock Opera that will then be performed in front of the Trumbull green screen. SMArt! participants artwork will be used for the virtual reality behind the live action. The virtual reality film will premiere at Flying Cloud Institute's annual Gala for the summer program, this year entitled "The Light Fantastic," which will be held at the Trumbull Studios on July 12.

Summer Programs Scholarships

Flying Cloud Institute has a scholarship available to children who wish to attend the institute's SMArt! Summer Program: the Susie Hardcastle Scholarship. The Susie Hardcastle Scholarship is made possible through generous donations from community members and the Tridan Foundation in honor of Hardcastle's significant role in the development of the SMArt! Summer Program over twenty years. The scholarship is awarded to a child who has been a past participant of the SMArt! Summer Program.

A limited number of scholarships are available, awarded based on criteria including financial need, creative talents and potential, and dedication to the sciences and the arts. Children should write a one-page statement about why they want to attend the SMArt! program and what they hope to gain from being at SMArt! this summer. Applications will be considered in the order they are received. Please apply as soon as possible to admin@flyingcloudinstiute.org or Flying Cloud Institute, 731 S. Sandisfield Road, New Marlborough, MA 01230.

Flying Cloud Institute's mission is to help children from ages 5 through 18 discover and develop their interest and skill in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) through a unique and exciting program that uses visual and performing arts, environmental studies, and close connections with STEM professionals to inspire and stimulate creative thinking and problem solving.

More information about the SMArt! Summer Programs is available online at flyingcloudinstitute.org.

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Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meeting, Town Hall, 9 am.

Every Tuesday: Zumba Class, 5:30–6:30 pm, Monterey Firehouse. $10/class.

Every Sunday: Softball, 10:30 am, Greene Park.

June 1–28: Exhibition of works by local young artists, Knox Gallery at Monterey Library. Opening reception June1, 4:30–6:30 pm. See p. 10.

Wednesday, June 6: Complimentary dinner, 6 pm, Hume New England Christian Camps, 73 Chestnut Hill Rd. Come and learn about this new venture in Monterey. Free. RSVP's encouraged, but not necessary: 413-528-3604. See p. 20.

Thursday, June 14: Free Blood Pressure Clinic with Berkshire Visiting Nurse Assoc., Town Hall Meeting Room, 2–3 pm.

Saturday, June 16:

"Forest Management and Forest Health," talk and walk with Tom Ryan, Southern Berkshire Service Forester, Mass Department of Conservation and Recreation. Bidwell House Museum, 100 Art School Road, Monterey. 10 am. See p. 13.

Solo and Chamber music performance by Gabi Makuc and Friends, 2:30 pm, Berkshire Music School, 30 Wendell Avenue, Pittsfield. Free, see p. 11.

Otis Celebration Day, Otis Town Hall; activities all day. See p. 21.

Wednesday, June 20: Community Potluck Dinner, 6 pm, Monterey Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall. Music will be provided Eric Martin. Everyone welcome. See p. 8.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be left in the drop box on the loading dock of the General Store. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4347 or e-mail montereynews9@gmail.com.

Friday, June 22: Opening reception for "Sculpture on the Green," featuring unique works of area sculptors, 5–7 pm, New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery, Route 57 on the Village Green, New Marlborough. See p. 14.

Saturday, June 23: Sun Painting Workshop for children 5 to 15, led by Peggy Reeves, 10 am–noon. Information, preregistration 528-2446 or PEARL465@gmail.com.

Monday, June 25: Adult book group will discuss *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood* by Janisse Ray, 7:30 pm, Monterey Library. Newcomers welcome.

Saturday, June 30: Bidwell House Museum History Talk: John Demos on *The Unredeemed Captive,* his book about the 1704 Indian attack on Deerfield; Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham. 10 am. See p. 13.

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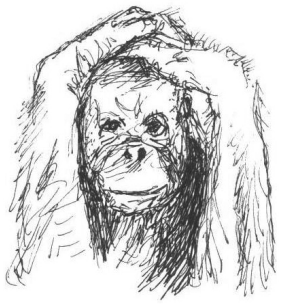
The Observer
April 26 – May 25

High temp. (5/19, 20)	81º
Low temp. (4/29)	26°
Avg. high temp.	63.6°
Avg. low temp.	42.5°
Avg. temp.	53.1°
Total rainfall	3.96 in.

Rainfall occurred on 20 days.

Transfer Station Summer Hours

Sunday	10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.



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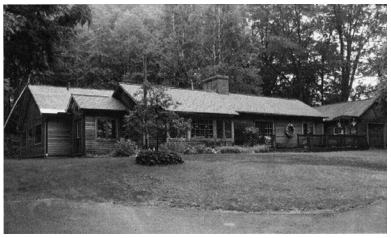

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Contributions from local and guest artists this month: Pat Arnow, 8; Rachel Arnow, 27; Maureen Banner, 15, 21; George Emmons, 18; Bonner McAllester, 16

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